

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15th District



For Immediate Release
December 12, 2006

Press Contact: Gregg W. Bortz
610-861-9734 or (cell) 202-222-5118

Labor Department awards NCC with biotechnology training grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) today announced the Department of Labor awarded Northampton Community College (NCC) a grant for \$713,025 through the Community-Based Job Training Grants Initiative to help grow the Lehigh Valley's work force in the field of biotechnology.

Partnered with Sanofi Pasteur, the Monroe County Career Link, as well as the School Districts of Bethlehem Area, Easton and Wilson Area, NCC will facilitate a multi-faceted initiative to address the growing biotechnology industry in the Lehigh Valley and Pocono region. The school will develop new curriculum in Aseptic Process and Automated Processing, and train 140 students, including dislocated workers, through a biotechnology degree program.

The grant will also afford educational opportunities for secondary students interested in biotechnology careers, as well as training opportunities for teachers focused on professional development in biotechnology-related fields. In addition, the college will be able to purchase new lab equipment and supplies to support the newly developed programs.

"This is an important initiative for education and economic development," Congressman Dent said. "Northampton Community College has a unique opportunity to meet the growing demands of the biotechnology

industry as it continues to cultivate in the Lehigh Valley. Students and educators will have the resources to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be highly effective in this industry.”

The Community-Based Job Training Grants Initiative is charged with equipping community colleges with the capacity to develop skilled workers for local, growing industries. This year the Department of Labor awarded \$125 million through this grant program to 72 community college partnerships, including NCC.

Congressman Dent represents Pennsylvania’s 15th District, which includes all or parts of Lehigh, Northampton, Berks and Montgomery Counties.

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